Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A ~~text composition spacing amount setting device for a~~ desktop publishing (DTP) system, comprising:

at least one inter-character-class spacing amount setting table, ~~for use in line composition, for grouping similar characters, forming a plurality of character classes and setting inter-character spacing amounts between a character class of a previous character and a character class of a next character within a pair of continuous characters;~~ defining inter-character spacing amounts in line composition, the spacing amount setting table defining spacing for a plurality of character classes, each character class grouping one or more similar characters, the system using the inter-character-class spacing amount setting table to set inter-character spacing amounts between pairs of contiguous characters according to a character class of a previous character and a character class of a next character in each pair of contiguous characters;

a display device for displaying electronic text that has been line composed; ~~and~~

an input device for ~~providing~~ receiving user input; and

~~a spacing amount setter that is operable to display~~ means for displaying on the display device a dialog box for receiving a user input ~~of~~ setting a spacing amount between the character class for the previous character and the character class for the next character, and where the dialog box identifies particular character classes using ~~to display in the dialog box~~ an icon representing the character class for the previous character and an icon representing the character class for the next character.

2.   (Currently Amended) The ~~text composition spacing amount setting device~~ <u>DTP system</u> of claim 1, wherein the plurality of character classes includes one or more of (1) starting parenthesis, (2) ending parenthesis, (3) characters that cannot appear at the start of a line, (4) non-centered punctuation, (5) centered punctuation, (6) period, (7) comma, (8) repeating characters that cannot be broken across lines, (9) preceding abbreviation code, (10) following abbreviation code, (11) full-width ideographic spaces, (12) hiragana, (13) Japanese characters other than character classes (1) through (12), (14) full-width numeral, (15) half-width numeral, (16) half-width Roman text, (17) start of line, (18) start of paragraph, and (19) end of line.

3.   (Currently Amended) The ~~text composition spacing amount setting device~~ <u>DTP system</u> of claim 1, further operable to receive a user selection of either the character class of the previous character or the character class of the next character in the dialog box.

4.   (Currently Amended) The ~~text composition spacing amount setting device~~ <u>DTP system</u> of claim 3, wherein a left side display column is provided for icons of the character class for the previous character and a right side display column is provided for icons for the character class of the next character in the dialog box, the device further being operable to display an icon representing a selected character class, among a plurality of classes, for the previous character in the left side display column, and to display an icon representing a selected character class, among a plurality of classes, for the next character in the right side display column.

5.   (Currently Amended) A computer program product, tangibly stored on a
computer-readable medium, for setting at text composition spacing amount in a desktop
publishing (DTP) system, comprising instructions operable to cause a programmable processor
to:

    display on a display device a spacing amount saved in an inter-character class spacing
amount setting character table in response to a user selection in the inter-character class spacing
amount setting table defining inter-character spacing amounts in line composition, the spacing
amount setting table defining spacing for a plurality of character classes, each character class
grouping one or more similar characters, the system using the inter-character-class spacing
amount setting table to set inter-character spacing amounts between pairs of contiguous
characters according to a character class of a previous character and a character class of a next
character in each pair of contiguous characters; , for use in line composition, the inter-character
class spacing amount-setting table grouping similar characters, forming a plurality of character
classes and defining inter-character spacing amounts between a character class of a previous
character and a character class of a next character within a pair of continuous characters; and

    display in the dialog box an icon representing the character class of the previous character
and an icon representing the character class of the next character.

6.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 5, wherein the plurality of character
classes includes one or more of: (1) starting parenthesis, (2) ending parenthesis, (3) Japanese
characters that cannot appear at the start of a line, (4) non-centered punctuation, (5) centered
punctuation, (6) period, (7) comma, (8) repeating characters that cannot be broken across lines,
(9) preceding abbreviation code, (10) following abbreviation code, (11) full-width ideographic
spaces, (12) hiragana, (13) Japanese characters other than character classes (1) through (12), (14)
full-width numeral, (15) half-width numeral, (16) half-width Roman text, (17) start of line, (18)
start of paragraph, and (19) end of line.

7.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 5 , further operable to receive a user selection of either the character class of the previous character or the character class of the next character in the dialog box.

8.   (Original) The computer program product of claim 7, further operable to:

display a left side display column for icons of the character class of the previous character and a right side display column for icons of the character class of the next character in the dialog box;

display the icon of the selected character class in the left side display column when a character class among a plurality of character classes is selected for the previous character's character class; and

display the icon of the selected character class in the right side display column when a character class among a plurality of character classes is selected for the next character's character class.

9.   (Currently Amended) A ~~text composition spacing amount setting device for~~ a <u>desktop</u>
<u>publishing (DTP)</u> system, comprising:

at least one inter-character-class spacing amount setting table~~, for use in line composition,~~
~~the inter-character-class spacing amount setting table grouping similar characters, forming a~~
~~plurality of character classes and setting inter-character spacing amounts between a character~~
~~class of a previous character and a character class of a next character within a pair of continuous~~
~~characters;~~ <u>defining inter-character spacing amounts in line composition, the spacing amount</u>
<u>setting table defining spacing for a plurality of character classes, each character class grouping</u>
<u>one or more similar characters, the system using the inter-character-class spacing amount setting</u>
<u>table to set inter-character spacing amounts between pairs of contiguous characters according to</u>
<u>a character class of a previous character and a character class of a next character in each pair of</u>
<u>contiguous characters;</u>

a display means capable of displaying electronic text that has been line composed;

an input means with which a user can perform input; and

a spacing amount setting means that is operable to start in response to user input, and to
display on the display means a dialog box for<u> receiving a</u> user input ~~of~~ <u>setting a</u> spacing amount
between the character class of the previous character and the character class of the next
character, and <u>where the dialog box identifies particular character classes using</u> ~~to display in the~~
~~dialog box~~ an icon representing the character class of the previous character and an icon
representing the character class of the next character.

10.   (Currently Amended) A computer readable recording medium recording a text composition spacing amount setting program for executing by computer in a desktop publishing system, comprising:

a procedure for displaying on a display means in dialog box format a spacing amount saved in an inter-character-class spacing amount setting table when a user selects the inter-character-class spacing amount setting table, ~~for use in line composition, wherein the inter-character-class spacing amount setting table groups similar characters, forms a plurality of character-classes and sets inter-character spacing amounts between a character class of a previous character and a character class of a next character within a pair of continuous contiguous characters~~ defining inter-character spacing amounts in line composition, the spacing amount setting table defining spacing for a plurality of character classes, each character class grouping one or more similar characters, the system using the inter-character-class spacing amount setting table to set inter-character spacing amounts between pairs of contiguous characters according to a character class of a previous character and a character class of a next character in each pair of contiguous characters; and

a procedure for displaying in the dialog box an icon representing the character class of the previous character and an icon representing the character class of the next character.